

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF BURKINA FASO



STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
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PRESIDENT OF BURKINA FASO

AT THE USA-AFRICA SUMMIT

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The Government of Burkina Faso welcomes this meeting which gives us the opportunity to share the experience of the country of the upright people on good governance, with this august audience.

Good governance is generally understood as the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority, with a view to guaranteeing popular participation, political stability, institutional development and respect of human rights.

In other words, good governance supposes:

- Sound use of national resources, taking into account environment protection towards sustainable development;
- Equity in redistribution of growth proceeds;
- Transparency in management of public goods;
- Greater oversight and combat against corruption;
- Promotion of a participatory and inclusive governance;
- Promotion of individual and collective freedoms;
- Establishment of an effective and reliable legal system.

This definition guides our action on a daily basis, in order to establish and consolidate the basic principles of a strong, united and developed nation. To achieve this, we work daily to foster:

- **Participation of all** citizens in decision making, either directly or through our republican institutions. This implies freedom of thought, expression and association. We have institutionalized frameworks of meeting with the youth, women, farmers, elderly people, private sector, in short all components of the society, in order to establish a direct dialogue with authorities. Similarly, we are promoting close partnership between the State, private Sector and civil society;
- **Rule of law** through equitable legal frameworks and an independent justice;

- **Transparency** based on free flow of information, which is a prerequisite for better understanding and follow-up on issues of general interest;
- **Equity** which allows each citizen to improve, or at least to preserve his or her living standards;
- **Efficiency** by matching institutions and needs, together with a concern for an optimal use of available resources;
- **Empowerment** which implies that people holding positions of responsibility at all levels (political apparatus, public administration, private sector, civil society), foster accountability and that, subsequently, the citizens are able to ensure control;
- **Compliance with international regional and sub-regional commitments**, in particular in reference with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), the Cotonou Agreement, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the legal instruments and the action plans such the Beijing action plan, etc.

Guided by the vision of a participatory development and united progress, Burkina Faso adopted, in September 1998, its first National Plan for Good governance together with an investment program towards its implementation. As a reference framework on governance, this plan is a statement of Government policy, taking all components into account, including the State (through the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary powers as well as advisory institutions), the private sector and the civil society.

This plan, managed by a tripartite national body (State, Private sector, Civil society) is tasked with:

- defining good governance concept in Burkina Faso;
- establishing agreed principles of good governance;
- setting objectives and an agreed strategy for good governance in our country;

The main purpose of this National Plan for Good governance is to establish all mechanisms and methods towards an effective and transparent management of State affairs, by providing effective opportunities for participation and oversight to all citizens, in particular through a qualitative participation from private sector and civil society.

Its specific goals include:

- Establishing a strategist State capable of effectively playing its normative role of guidance, impulse and oversight on socio-economic development;
- Reinforcing private sector partnership with the State by creating an enabling environment for its emergence, while focusing on its professionalization;
- Promoting a civil society capable of influencing various political and economic decisions, with a view to creating genuine social mechanism for check and balance.

This practice of good governance is essential to consolidate the Rule of law and strengthen democracy in Burkina Faso.

These Governance mechanisms made it possible for us to achieve very encouraging outcomes in terms of educational offer, medical cover, food security, and so on.

It should be remembered that Burkina Faso comes from far. Strong population growth and legitimate expectations of populations for a significant improvement of their living standards, always remain challenges for us.

To meet these expectations, we established an important mechanism in 2012 called “Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable development (SCADD)”.

With this option, the Government seeks to consolidate good governance mechanisms, principles and practices in order to further entrench the spirit of public service in the administration, to create the conditions to substantially

improve performance in all sectors of management of the country, to effectively combat poverty and corruption, to equitably share the proceeds of economic growth and to foster democracy.

All in all, the practice of good governance allowed the country of the upright people to achieve a lot including:

- Political stability of the constitutional regime in place, in contrast with periods of political instability that marked the three previous constitutional regimes;
- Social cohesion and peace;
- Respect of public freedoms, in particular the freedom of thought and pluralism of the press;
- Ongoing decentralization which gradually contributes towards rooting and ownership of democracy at community level;
- Existence of an active civil society, in particular in the field of human rights protection and monitoring of elections.
- Stabilization of public expenditure;
- Regular holding of elections;
- Notable progress achieved in terms of economic growth and development.

Notwithstanding these achievements, many challenges still remain to be addressed:

- Continue awareness raising to allow the people of Burkina Faso to take ownership on this institutional framework;
- continue political reforms to consolidate achievements of administrative and economic governance;
- Consolidate social cohesion and peace;
- Improve living standards of population through jobs creation and an even more equitable redistribution of the fruits of economic growth.

Massive support for this political vision by the Burkinabe, combined with their hard work despite objective natural constraints, herald better future for this people which is striving day by day to build a strong, developed and respected nation.